

NWACC Final Report: Plateau Peoples' Web Portal

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I. Project Goals:

The goal of the Plateau Project is to create a web-based environment that allows the Plateau People's cultural materials in Washington State University's special collections to be curated, catalogued, and accessed by students, faculty, and Native individual and organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest. Specifically our curatorial methodology is based around collaboration from the three Tribes involved in this project: Umatilla, Yakama and Coeur d'Alene. The collaboration is aimed at directing both the technical aspect of the project and the curation process. The portal itself aims to integrate Web 2.0 technologies in a culturally sensitive and dynamic environment allowing for multiple and overlapping narratives to exist and thus expanding the collections materials and its educational and research value.

Goals met:

- a. The portal is fully functional
 - a. <http://libarts.wsu.edu/plateaucenter/portal/html/ppp/index.php>
 - b. The portal's innovation in design and features was successful: there are 9 fully dynamic administration pages allowing tribes complete control over the curation process. The dynamic navigation allows users to follow "tribal paths" or browse via categories chosen by the tribes. Each set of metadata is fully flexible. Users are able to leave comments, add tags and create their own collections for further research. Audio and video and mapping capabilities are fully dynamic and flexible within each content set.
 - c. All pre-existing metadata is loaded, tagged and fully searchable.
 - d. MASC and National Anthropological Archives @ the Smithsonian material added: 82 pieces total; 63 from WSU special collections and Museum of Anthropology; 19 images from NAA
 - e. The tribes are still adding materials to the portal IN ADDITION to the materials we had slated from the MSAC at the beginning of the project. Their willingness to add more content is a positive sign that the portal has met the goals of the tribes to be able to curate and share their cultural materials.
- b. The curatorial model was successful: the three tribes:
 - a. Chose their own materials
 - b. Decided on the narration and metadata
 - c. Added tribal knowledge to the materials
 - d. Decided on the appropriate categories for searching the portal

II. Project Results: Teaching, Learning & Research

A. Teaching, research and learning:

- a. The portal has not yet been adopted by the tribes. However, all three tribes are taking the portal before their educational advisory boards for use in their tribal schools.
- b. The portal is being used as a model for researching tribal collections by several institutions. WSU's Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections, the Museum of Anthropology and the Plateau center are all using the portal.
- c. The portal is being used in three outside universities thus far: George Washington, Indiana University and UCLA.

III. Papers and Presentations

A. Papers:

- a. I have a manuscript complete for a peer-reviewed journal. The article will be submitted May 2009.

B. Presentations:

- a. I have presented the portal for:
 - i. The Library of Congress American Folklife Center
 - ii. Indigenous Language Institute
 - iii. Columbia University Center for Ethnomusicology
 - iv. UCLA--iSchool
- b. I have been invited to present at:
 - i. World Intellectual Property Organization
 - ii. University of Rochester
 - iii. Anthropology Centre (SAC) in Bangkok, Thailand

IV. Additional Funding

I received an ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowship for the 2009-1010 academic year. This fellowship will allow me to dedicate the year to expanding the portal project. The project funds will allow us to expand the software adding several new features. We have already indentified two more Plateau tribes that wish to join the project. We will be digitizing 1,000 more pieces of content from WSU and have secured national partners including the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution. We are currently working to gain regional partners through the Northwest Museum of Art and Culture.

V. Closing Financial Statement

A. Budget:

1. Technical Design (php + MySQL programming) (ASAP lab University of Maine) 4,000
2. Technical director & html implementation (Craig Dietruch) 2,000
3. Graduate Student salary for digitizing (Shawn Lamebull) 1,500
4. PI summer salary for outreach (Kimberly Christen) 2,500

Total: 10,000 ** all monies paid as of April 2009